

March 2, 2004

**Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**Freestone Flat Vineyards Parcel B Culvert Replacement Project
WDID No. 1B03214WNSO
Sonoma County**

On December 16, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Craig Williams of New West LLC., requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Freestone Flat Vineyards Parcel B Culvert Replacement Project in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the state associated with unnamed tributary to Salmon Creek Hydrologic Area 115.10 and the Bodega Hydrologic Unit No. 115.00.

The proposed project is located east of Freestone Flat Road, approximately 0.6 miles northeast of Bohemian Highway in Sonoma County, California (APN 073-100-083). The purpose of the project is to remove and replace two existing 36-inch culverts that convey storm water under an existing gravel driveway that serves the subject parcel.

The proposed project consists of the removal and replacement of twin 36-inch diameter culverts with a new 5-foot high by 8-foot wide by 66-foot long precast box culvert with inlet and outlet protection consisting of wingwalls and rock riprap. The two existing culverts were installed under a Streambed Alteration Agreement issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) (1603 #0971-99) and are being replaced at the request of the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Department. The CDFG has already reviewed the proposed culvert replacement and has issued a Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600-2003-5036-3) for the project.

According to the application, the only work in the watercourse will be the removal of the existing culverts and placement of the new box culvert. Construction is tentatively set to begin in June and end by October 15th. It is anticipated that the project will only take two weeks to complete. All construction within the watercourse will be done by hand with power tools as deemed necessary. The overall work within the watercourse will be minimized to that required to remove the existing culverts and install the new box culverts. According to the CDFG the project site is already disturbed and no significant vegetation removal will be required.

No compensatory mitigation for this project is currently proposed. Based on site review, it may be deemed necessary to have riparian tree plantings conducted to offset the impacts to the streambank associated with the placement of new rock riprap and/or wing walls.

Noncompensatory mitigation measures include the use of construction storm water Best Management Practices to reduce the threat of erosion and sediment discharges to Salmon Creek.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State Clearinghouse Number 2003098407, September 24, 2003.

The nearest receiving water is Unnamed Tributary of Salmon Creek located in Bodega Hydrologic Unit No. 115.00.

The project is scheduled to begin in June of 2004 and be completed no later than October 15, 2004. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at jensa@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

(AJJ_freestoneflatvineyardparcelbdriveway)